

LEPC/DES/E-9-1-1
MINUTES OF MEETING

Wednesday, May 5, 2021
Columbus Fire Hall
944 E Pike Ave, Columbus, MT 59019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Shane Warehime, Chip Kem, Terry Brumfield, Charity Stephens, Bill Pronovost, Gunnar Hansen, Eric Ouzts, Kevin Mitchum, Steph Ray, Randy Smith, Mark Crago, Travis Hansen, Marlo Pronovost, Kevin Ray, Rich Cowger

I. Call to Order

- a. Pledge to the Flag
- b. Introductions
- c. Minutes were approved with the addition of Sergeant Warehime added as attendee. Randy Smith approved the change, Kevin Mitchum seconded the motion. Motion passed.

II. DES

- a. Kevin Mitchum. Herzler Tailing Pond tour is May 11th at 2:00 p.m. Meet at 2:00 at Columbus warehouse. May 12th is the table top exercise. The exercise will start at 8:00 a.m. at the Columbus Fire Station. There will be 12 participants in the scenario and the rest will be observers. There are 30 attendees signed up for the exercise.

III. PDM Update

- a. Bill Pronovost updated the group on the Hazard Mitigation Plan meetings. There are 2 more meetings left and then Tetra Tech will put together the draft for review. Once the draft is published it will also be reviewed by the State DES Department and FEMA.

IV. E911

- a. Sheriff Kem has coordinated training for Maureen Wilshire May 13th.

V. LEPC

- a. Bill Pronovost: Future training exercises are being discussed. The first exercise for 2021 is the Mine, other considerations are a plane crash at the airport or a school shooting in either Reedpoint or Absarokee. Need further discussion on which school location would be preferred.

- b. Charlie Hansen, State DES, confirmed that two exercises are required for 2021 FY which ends on June 30, 2021. One needs to be a covid exercise such as testing clinic or vaccination clinic for documentation. Bill said we have completed the COVID testing exercise. This leaves one additional exercise prior to June 30th. The group confirmed that the Mine exercise would qualify as the second exercise.

VI. PHEP

- a. Leslie informed the group that they continue to have vaccination clinics with 68% of the county vaccinated and 32% waiting for their second dose. Stillwater county has 4 active cases. Additional public health concerns include river flooding both for drowning incidents and communicable diseases. Agricultural animal workers need to wash hands frequently to avoid virus cross-contamination.

VII. Road names – none

VIII. Communications

- a. Nick went to the Absarokee Fire meeting and talked to the board. The two agencies are working on some details for mutual aid agreements. Charity mentioned the desire for a few modifications and will present this at the next board meeting. Rich stated this is for incidents that come in to dispatch, where additional aid would be desire.
- b. Message board. Bill stated if we can't get it running, we should look into buying a new one. The sign presents maintenance challenges with limited service providers. The proposed cost for a new sign is \$15,000-\$21,000. Crago inquired about the truck message board. Rich said it was working well.

IX. Fire Warden

- a. Bill signed the agreement for the fire restrictions plan update, which is updated every couple of years. This plan identifies the chain of command and how to implement fire restrictions. Bill can email a copy of the agreement to anyone interested. Rich mentioned east side of MT is already in Stage 1. DNRC Jeff Brown rural fire coordinator got fire management officer position moved up bringing guy from Lincoln unit to Billings that will be asst. fire management officer. Mark stated they will be at the fire council on the 18th agenda.
- b. DNRC did get funding to duration of fire season helicopter based out of Billings vs. on call as needed.
- c. Mark Crago noted as far as emergency planning goes the box culvert on Stillwater has been replaced and is open. Johnson Creek Bridge is closed, construction will start July 1. Now have to go Miller or Spring Creek Road to get to the opposite of the river.

- d. Bill Pronovost provided an update on the new DES trailer. The new generator won't arrive until December so it will be 2022, so it will be a while before the trailer is operational. The current trailer needs some work before it is functional.
- e. Charity Stephens said they are trying to repair relationships between the Absarokee and Columbus Districts and is receptive to guidance and feedback. She is looking forward to improved communication and opportunities. Absarokee is close to 24-hour paramedic coverage. Terry asked about the Move Over Law. Rich Cowger said they are working on building criteria for driver's ed program and new manuals that will come out. The law will be effective in October of 2021.

X. Other

- a. Bill to update LEPC outlook to include Kevin Ray, Stephanie Ray, Maureen Wiltshire on LEPC agendas.

XI. Meeting Adjourn:

- a. Sheriff motioned to adjourn.